

# FOIA MARKER

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**Collection/Record Group:** Clinton Presidential Records

**Subgroup/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting

**Series/Staff Member:** Carolyn Curiel

**Subseries:**

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**OA/ID Number:** 10995

**FolderID:**

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**Folder Title:**  
[Rodney King]

**Stack:**

**S**

**Row:**

**91**

**Section:**

**5**

**Shelf:**

**7**

**Position:**

**3**

## Acquittal

Today, a jury in Los Angeles reached a verdict of not guilty in the Federal trial of four police officers accused of violating Rodney' King's civil rights. Not every one of us agrees with this verdict. But the full resources of the Department of Justice were committed to this prosecution, and I extend my gratitude to the trial team that worked so diligently in this case.

This trial raised difficult issues of federal law and the case was governed by complex legal standards. Many people, though, will simply look at the outcome and feel anger and frustration.

But this anger cannot become the basis for willful violation of the law or disorderly conduct. I support the efforts of Willie Williams, the Los Angeles Chief of Police, and other law enforcement officials to prevent and control any such conduct in the coming days.

At the same time, I call upon all who feel frustrated today -- upon all who cannot forget the video-taped beating of Mr. King that we watched together as a nation -- to work with me to ensure that the civil rights of all Americans are protected. I call upon all of our citizens to work with me to ensure that the civil rights of all Americans are protected. Together, we can address the problems that plague our inner cities, and to reverse the climate of fear and hopelessness that so many experience in their daily lives. I feel your pain, and I will work my heart out to respond to your concerns -- about crime, about drugs, about joblessness, and about the terrible forces that pull our families apart.

I call upon all Americans to remain calm and peaceful during this difficult time. If we all work together, we will prevail.

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## Guilty

I am gratified that a jury today reached a verdict of guilty in the Federal trial of four police officers accused of violating Rodney King's civil rights. The full resources of the Department of Justice were committed to this prosecution, and I extend my gratitude to the trial team that worked so diligently on this case.

The verdict in this case underscores our commitment to the civil rights of all Americans. It is a reminder that our system of justice is fair, and that our courts are the proper forum for resolution of legal disputes. The verdict establishes what so many have felt in our hearts for two years now: Rodney King's civil rights were violated.

As we move forward from this difficult period, I call upon all of our citizens to work with me to ensure that the civil rights of all Americans are protected. Together, we can address the problems that plague our inner cities, and to reverse the climate of fear and hopelessness that so many experience in their daily lives. I feel your pain, and I will work my heart out to respond to your concerns -- about crime, about drugs, about joblessness, and about the terrible forces that pull our families apart. If we all work together, we will prevail.

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